



**Billing Code 3501-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**[RTID 0648-XA066]**

**Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; of a proposed evaluation and pending determination (PEPD) for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a PEPD is available for public comment on three hatchery and genetic management plans (HGMPs) for Dungeness River hatchery programs submitted for review and determination under Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 4(d), Limit 6 for Puget Sound Chinook salmon, Puget Sound steelhead, and Hood Canal summer chum salmon.

**DATES:** Comments must be received at the appropriate address (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific time on **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. Comments received after this date may not be considered.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to Morgan Robinson, NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division, 510 Desmond Dr. Lacey, WA 98503. Comments may be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is:

*hatcheries.public.comment@noaa.gov*. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment

the following identifier: Comments on Dungeness River PEPD.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Morgan Robinson at (360) 534-9338

or by email at *morgan.robinson@noaa.gov*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**ESA-Listed Species Covered in This Notice**

- Puget Sound Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated
- Puget Sound Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated
- Hood Canal Summer Chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated

**Background**

NMFS has received three HGMPs for hatchery programs rearing and releasing Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and chum salmon in the Dungeness River basin, Washington. The three HGMPs were submitted pursuant to limit 6 of the Section 4(d) rule for salmon and steelhead. The hatchery programs are operated by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife in cooperation with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe.

The purpose of the hatchery programs is to contribute to the survival and recovery of Puget Sound Chinook Salmon, assist in developing information on exploitation rates, and support returns of coho salmon and chum salmon to the Dungeness River basin as well as contribute to the diet of Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW).

(Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 742a *et seq.*)

Dated: March 3, 2020.

**Angela Somma,**

*Chief, Endangered Species Division,*

*Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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